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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 10 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Economic Information: Conditions in North Korea

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PLACE
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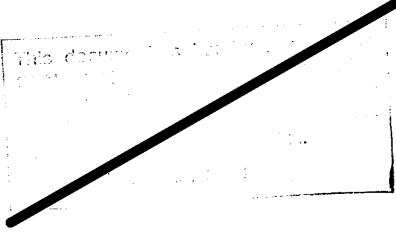
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Entry at the port of Hungnam (Konan) (127-33, 39-52) is not difficult, and once past the immigration authorities, one can move about freely. Source traveled to Pyongyang without any difficulty.
2. Food appears to be adequate and cheap. The monthly ration of rice is 72 kilos per person. Rice sells for the equivalent of Hong Kong \$20 (about U.S. \$4.00) per picul. Meat is plentiful and sells at Hong Kong 60 cents (about U.S. \$0.12) per catty. Housing conditions are very bad.
3. North Korea is exporting to Hong Kong sulphate of ammonia, salt fish, graphite and ginseng. Mink skins are being bartered for rubber from the USSR. North Koreans are anxious to obtain paper, paper machinery, gasoline, and pitch for making batteries. Although all private and official North Korean cars run on alcohol, Russian cars use gasoline. It is expected that gasoline will soon be shipped from Hong Kong to North Korea.


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